



**U.S. Department of Justice  
U.S. Attorney's Office  
Western District of Texas**

**Johnny Sutton, U.S. Attorney**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**ODESSA MAN SENTENCED FOR FEDERAL FIREARMS VIOLATION**

**United States Attorney Johnny Sutton** announced that 27-year-old Christopher Joseph Kenimer of Odessa, Texas, was sentenced to 57 months in federal prison for being a convicted felon in possession of a firearm.

On January 18, 2007, Kenimer pleaded guilty to the charge. By pleading guilty, Kenimer admitted he stole several rifles from an Odessa residence, and subsequently pawned them in Odessa in October and November 2006. He further admitted that he had been convicted in Ector County in 2001 of Burglary of a Habitation and had served a term of incarceration in the Texas Department of Criminal Justice--Institutional Division for this offense.

In addition to the federal prison term, United States District Judge Robert Junell ordered that Kenimer be placed under supervised release for a period of three years after completing his prison term.

This offense was discovered by the Odessa Police Department as part of its routine review of pawnshop records and comparison of pawnshop customer lists with criminal histories. The case was further investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation's West Texas Major Offenders Task Force and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives. Assistant United States Attorney John Klassen prosecuted this case on behalf of the Government.

The prosecution of this case is another example of how the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Western District of Texas is carrying out the Department of Justice's gun crime initiative - Project Safe Neighborhoods (PSN). Project Safe Neighborhoods is a nationwide federal initiative designed to reduce gun violence in our communities. PSN promotes partnerships among federal, state, and local law enforcement to target criminals in possession of guns. Federal law insures that when an armed criminal is arrested, that individual will face swift criminal prosecution and be exiled from the community through the use of stiff mandatory prison sentences.

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